

Human Health Breakout

October 6th, 2004
SOLEC 2004

Discussion Worksheet Questions and Answers

Number of Worksheets Submitted: 4

Focus Question 1: What are these indicators telling us? Are the individual indicators and overall assessments correct and useful? Are they telling us things that can lead to better restoration and protection of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem?

The bark trees and medicinal plants are affected by pollution in the air. Medicinal plants are deformed in some areas along the Great Lakes basin and wetlands.

Drinking Water Indicator – I found that the assessment of “good” is misleading because the indicator does not give us an idea of the ecosystem objective of protecting the water at its source. More data is needed on raw water and potential linking this with land use indicators/data.

Correlations between indicators and health effects support hypothesis and show trends. Not helpful in themselves because other risk factors for the health outcomes not included.

Focus Question 2: What refinements, simplifications, or enhancements would you propose: To the assessment process? To the bundling of indicators?

Study should be done in the area among the Great Lakes basin and wetlands because there will be no medicines in the future for the generation to come. Concerns today and ability lag on the harvesters who provide these medicines for healing purposes. Their contamination caused by acid rain. Study should be done to prevent for medicines used.

Many indicators need to be reconsidered – add contemporary endpoints and remove obsolete endpoints for problems already solved.

Communication gap somewhere!! Plenty of research on endocrine disruptors, raw water data, giardia and cryptosporidium. More input from researchers and different sources of information needs to be passed along to get a better package on drinking water quality. There is just a huge communication gap between SOLEC and the amount of data and research that is there to tap into.

Focus Question 3: What are the key management implications that emerge from evaluating the indicators in this category?

Where indicators are trending upwards, collect more source emissions and inventory data and address major contributors. Conclusions on health effects require knowledge of other risk factors to judge the relative importance of the ones followed under SOLEC.